

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----062325Z 091561 /62  
R 051743Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3619

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1358

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 GARBLED)

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY BRAY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, SHUM, OVIP, UY  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE HIGH LEVEL VISIT

REF: STATE 072547, MONTEVIDEO 1244, MONTEVIDEO 1312,  
MONTEVIDEO 1348

1. WHILE THE GOU'S FORMAL RESPONSE TO AN INFORMAL SUGGESTION MAY BE PROCEDURALLY INCONSISTENT, I THINK IT REFLECTS AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING THE DEGREE OF UNEASINESS WHICH IT FEELS REGARDING RECENTLY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND ITS ANXIETY TO CHANGE THIS COURSE IF POSSIBLE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S QUICK INVITATION TO MS. DERIAN WHEN HE LEARNED OF HER PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA, AND THE TONE OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH HER (MVD 1348), IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THIS. THE QUALITY OF THAT USEFUL, AIR-CLEARING DISCUSSION SUGGESTS TO ME AS WELL THE UTILITY OF CONTINUING AND ENLARGING A DIALOGUE FOR WHICH THE GOU NOTE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY.

2. THE FACT THAT THE GOU AVOIDED TIEING SUCH A VISIT TO AN IAHRC INVITATION IS NO SURPRISE. WE PREDICTED THIS IN OUR FIRST  
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COMMENT ON THE WASHINGTON DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE VISIT (MVD 1244) AND ADDED MORE IN DESCRIBING THE MINISTER'S OBSERVATIONS WHEN I WAS GIVEN A COPY OF THE NOTE WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN WASHINGTON (MVD 1312). ON THE OTHER HAND, PROGRESS IN A DIALOGUE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT A PRIOR IAHRC COMMITMENT SEEMS TO ME TO BE A GOOD STEP TOWARD MAKING SUCH AN INSPECTION, OR ONE BY SOME OTHER ACCEPTABLE AGENCY, EVENTUALLY MORE LIKELY.

IN THE END, A MEETING SUCH AS SUGGESTED DOES NOT HAVE TO IMPLY IN ANY WAY ENDORSEMENT OF THE SITUATION HERE SHOULD IMPROVEMENT NOT BE FORTHCOMING.

3. TO PUT THE MATTER INTO THE GOU PERSPECTIVE, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT URUGUAY, GRANTED ITS FAULTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, STILL FEELS IT IS AGGRIEVED IN RELATIONS WITH US FOR SEVERAL REASONS ALREADY KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE, OBJECTIVELY WE SHOULD HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POINT OF VIEW. THUS A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE URUGUAYAN NOTE WOULD STAND AS AN EARNEST OF OUR DESIRE RECIPROCALLY TO REPAIR RELATIONS WITH THIS TRADITIONAL FRIEND, IF POSSIBLE.

4. IN THE LIGHT OF URUGUAY'S ATTITUDE, ITS DEMONSTRATED DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS IS THE MORE IMPRESSIVE AS IS THEIR SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF "ALL SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS" AND "PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT A UNIVERSAL LEVEL." I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS "UNIVERSAL LEVEL" QUALIFIER IS INTENDED TO EXCLUDE DISCUSSION IN SUCH AN ENCOUNTER OF THE SPECIFIC SITUATION IN URUGUAY. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THEY HAD TOLD US THAT THIS IS AN INTERNAL MATTER, I HAVE NEVER, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ENCOUNTERED UNWILLINGNESS AT ANY LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT PRIVATELY AND IN DETAIL TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE SUBJECT PERTAINS TO URUGUAY. ALSO, OF COURSE, THIS IS THE OBVIOUS RATIONALE OF THE PROPOSED ENCOUNTER IN ANY CASE. URUGUAY

HAS ONLY PROTESTED AS "INTERVENTIONIST, ILLEGAL AND UNFRIENDLY," UNITED STATES' PUBLIC COMMENT ON THEIR INTERNAL SITUATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATED SANCTIONS.

5. AS A FURTHER COMMENT ON ANY PRIOR CONDITION, THE URUGUAYANS OF COURSE KNOW THAT THE US IS MEETING WITH CUBA WITHOUT, ACCORDING TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PRIOR CONDITIONS. THEY WOULD THEREFORE EXPECT EQUAL CONSIDERATION IN THIS REGARD.

6. FOR ALL OF THE FOREGOING REASONS, I RECOMMEND THAT THE URUGUAYAN NOTE BE ANSWERED BY EXPRESSING A SIMILAR DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND, WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO THE VISIT OF AN EMISSARY, SUGGESTING INFORMAL EXPLORATION BEFOREHAND OF THE GENERAL OUTLINE, AGENDA AND TERMS UNDER WHICH SUCH A VISIT COULD BE MADE. I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT SO THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE A CLEAR IDEA BEFOREHAND OF WHAT WOULD BE INVOLVED. IN SUCH EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS THE QUESTION OF ULTIMATE INSPECTION COULD BE TAKEN UP WHILE NOT TIEING IT AS A CONDITION TO THE VISIT ITSELF.

SIRACUSA

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## Message Attributes

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